rate (see Table 3). This process is therefore suitable for producing a thrombin concentrate with high virus reduction factors.

Please delete text "AVENTIS BEHRING GMBH 2000/A002-A1" at page 16, line 1.

Please replace text at page 16, line 2, with the following:

We claim:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17, and add new claims 18-34, as follows:

18. (NEW) A thrombin preparation comprising a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity as stabilizer.

19. (NEW) The thrombin preparation as claimed in claim 18, which additionally comprises a soluble calcium salt and sodium chloride as stabilizers, a buffer substance, and further comprises at least one of

a sugar,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

wherein the thrombin preparation is stable in the liquid state.

20. (NEW) A process for producing a thrombin preparation, comprising a prothrombin obtained from plasma or a plasma fraction, wherein, following activation of the prothrombin to thrombin, and optionally further processing steps, the thrombin is purified by hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

21. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the prothrombin employed for activation to thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses during its production.

22. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the thrombin is subjected to inactivation or reduction of viruses before or after hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

23. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, additionally comprising cation exchange chromatography carried out before or after the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

preparation is adjusted to a pH of from 5.0 to 8.0.

25. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a soluble calcium salt and sodium chloride as stabilizers, a buffer substance, and at least one of

a sugar,

a sugar alcohol,

an amino acid,

a salt of a mono- or polycarboxylic acid, or

a salt of a mono- or polyhydroxycarboxylic acid,

are added to the thrombin preparation.

26. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is added as a stabilizer.

27. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the noncovalently binding inhibitor of thrombin activity is benzamidine or p-aminobenzamidine.

28. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein a gel with coupled hydrophobic radicals is employed as absorbent for the hydrophobic interaction chromatography.

29. (NEW) The process as claimed in claim 28, wherein the hydrophobic radicals of the gel employed as absorbent are phenyl radicals or ligands of similar